

March 7, 2011

Darien Auto Specialties

Co-Chair Edward Meyer
Co-Chair Richard Roy
Senator Andrew Roraback
Representative Clark Chapin

Environment Committee:

I have been in the petroleum industry for nearly 30 years and have operated a service station that was owned by a major oil company. These companies have the capital to deal with all issues from major improvements to their properties and anything else that includes spills and leaking tanks. Should these issues arise they just pass the cost on and build it into the price we pay for rent and motor fuel. I was given a 45 day rite of first refusal to purchase the property, and now after a few years in the service station I will have to replace my underground tanks without any help from the state or the federal government.

The real point that I would like to make is that I do not have the resources that a major oil company has. I don't have enough equity in my property and I am in serious financial debt. I have analyzed my business and have come to the conclusion that only the oil companies enough money to cover and re coop the funds. We as independent petroleum dealers just go week to week and pay our taxes, bills, credit card fees, permits, insurances, and operating expenses etc, etc.etc.

This is my endorsement to establishing and maintaining the tank insurance and the clean up fund. As more and more people like myself purchase their locations we do not realize the cost associated nor can afford to clean up should the need arise to do this on our own. I also believe the fund should include dealer assistance with the cost and maintaining or improving our storage tanks as well providing tax credits for instillation of equipment that supports Bio and Flex fuel.

Sincerely,

Vince De'Rentiis
President
Darien Auto Specialists Inc.